

Message Text

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DEPT PASS CU/AF KEN CHARD

FROM AMBASSADOR SPIRO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CM
SUBJECT: VICE CHANCELLOR VICTOR NGG, UNIV OF YAOUNDE, CAMEROON

1. PLEASE TRANSMIT FOLLOWING LETTER TO ADDRESSEE SOONEST.

DR JOHN H KNOWLES, PRESIDENT
ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION
1133 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10036

DEAR DR KNOWLES:

BEFORE MY DEPARTURE FOR CAMEROON, I CALLED ON RALPH DAVIDSON, YOUR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES, AN ACQUAINTANCE FROM THE
COUNCIL OF FOREIGN RELATIONS - WHERE, INCIDENTALLY, I BELIEVE
WE ALSO ONCE BRIEFLY MET, AFTER THE COLBY MEETING. HE TOLD
ME THAT THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION WAS NOT DOING ANYTHING IN
CAMEROON AND THAT THERE WERE NO PROSPECTS, AT LEAST NOT IN HIS
AREA.

I AM NOT TRYING TO CHANGE THAT CONDITION IN ASKING YOU TO RECEIVE
THE VICE CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF YAOUNDE, DR VICTOR
NGU, WHO WILL BE VISITING THE UNITED STATES FOR ABOUT ONE
MONTH, STARTING NOVEMBER 9TH. DR NGU IS A DISTINGUISHED SURGEON
WHO WON A LASKER PRIZE FOR CANCER RESEARCH IN 1972. HE IS A
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FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS AND TELLS ME THAT YOU

AND HE HAVE A COMMON FRIEND, SOMEONE NAMED CABOT WHOSE FIRST NAME HE HAS FORGOTTEN, WHO HE KNOWS FROM LONDON. LIKE SOME OTHER MIDICAL MEN I KNOW, HE UNDERTOOK HIS ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES ONLY RELUCTANTLY, BUT HE HAS ALREADY BEEN QUITE SUCCESSFUL IN IMPROVING AND DIVERSIFYING THE UNIVERSITY, WHICH WAS ORIGINALLY LAUNCHED UNDER HEAVY FRENCH INFLUENCE. THE PURPOSE OF HIS PRESENT TRIP IS TO GET ADVICE ON NEW DOCTORAL PROGRAMS, ON A NEW UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS. I HAVE ALSO WRITTEN THE PRESIDENTS OF HARVARD, M.I.T., AND THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS - DR NGU WILL BE ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS IN BOSTON - AND THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, AS WELL AS MY OLD FRIEND CAL PLIMPTON OF THE DOWNSTATE MEDICAL CENTER. THE IDEA OF CALLING ON FOUNDATIONS IS MINE, NOT DR DNU'S - SO THAT YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT ANY INITIATIVE FROM HIM TO CHANGE THE SITUATION OF ROCKEFELLER'S NON-INVOLVEMENT IN CAMEROON.....

I HOPE VERY MUCH THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO RECEIVE DR NGU. I THINK YOU WILL FIND HIM NOT ONLY INTELLECTUALLY STIMULATING BUT --UNLIKE SOME OTHER UNIVERSITY HEADS I KNOW -- ALSO A VERY JOLLY BOUNCY, THOROUGHLY ENJOYABLE HUMAN BEING. IN WASHINGTON, HE CAN BE REACHED THROUGH KENNETH CHARD, BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, TELEPHONE (202) 632-8055.

SINCERELY YOURS,

AMBASSADOR HERBERT J SPIRO
AMERICAN EMBASSY
YAOUNDE, CAMEROON
SPIRO

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NNN

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